

## Hazardous Materials in Schools

The issue of hazardous materials in schools is receiving national attention. There are many departments within a school where hazardous chemicals can be found. Many schools do not have procedures for proper storage, or budgets for disposal of unwanted, unused, and out-of-date chemicals.

Over the past few years, the New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program (NHPPP) has helped New Hampshire schools address their hazardous materials management responsibilities. We provided outreach, site visits and assisted seven N.H. towns with school clean outs.

Following the pollution prevention methodology of source reduction, we created a school chemical management policy and seven documents highlighting best management practices for chemical management.

Below is a graph of the amount of mercury disposed from N.H. schools from January 2000 (just after we started our chemicals in schools program) to April 2004. Notice that the amount of mercury increases dramatically, the large spike in 2003 is primarily due to the one time removal of a rubber gymnasium floor containing mercury.

**Mercury Disposed from N.H. Schools  
January 2000 to April 2004**

